

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Irene (Qing) Lin on 22 March 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to recite --

A power transmission chain entrainable between a first pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces and a second pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces, the power transmission chain comprising:

a plurality of links each possessing through-holes;

a plurality of pins inserted through the through-holes for interconnecting the plurality of links, the power transmission chain transmitting power by way of contact between opposite end faces of each of the pins and the sheave surfaces of the first and second pulleys; and

a plurality of strips inserted through the through-holes for interconnecting the plurality of links, each strip contacting one of the plurality of pins in the corresponding through-hole,

wherein all the plurality of pins substantially have the same length in the longitudinal direction thereof, and the plurality of pins include plural types of pins having different rigidities in the longitudinal direction thereof, and

wherein the plurality of links include plural types of links comprising:
a first type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and only pins of the same type having substantially the same rigidities; and
a second type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and pins of any of the plurality of pin types having different rigidities. --

Claim 2 has been amended to recite --

A power transmission chain entrainable between a first pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces and a second pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces, the power transmission chain comprising:

a plurality of links;
a plurality of pins for interconnecting the plurality of links, the power transmission chain transmitting power by way of contact between opposite end faces of each of the pins and the sheave surfaces of the first and second pulleys; and
a plurality of strips for interconnecting the plurality of links, each strip contacting a corresponding one of the plurality of pins,

wherein all the plurality of pins substantially have the same length in the longitudinal direction thereof, and the plurality of pins include plural types of pins having

different sectional shapes or sectional areas as determined on a section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction thereof, and

wherein the plurality of links include plural types of links comprising:

a first type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and only pins of the same type having substantially the same rigidities; and
a second type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and pins of any of the plurality of pin types having different rigidities. --

Claim 6 has been amended to recite --

A power transmission chain entrainable between a first pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces and a second pulley possessing conical sheave surfaces, the power transmission chain including plural chain friction transmission members, the power transmission chain transmitting power by way of contact between opposite end faces of each of the plural chain friction transmission members and the sheave surfaces of the first and second pulleys, the chain friction transmission members arranged along a chain longitudinal direction at predetermined space intervals, the chain comprising:

a plurality of links each possessing first and second through-holes arranged in the chain longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of first pins and a plurality of strips, each of the plurality of first pins and the plurality of strips penetrates the first through-hole of one link and the second through-hole of an adjacent link thereby interconnecting the links, adjoining in a chain widthwise direction, in a manner to provide bending in the chain longitudinal direction,

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wherein the first pin fixed in the first through-hole of the one link and movably fitted in the second through-hole of the other link and the strip movably fitted in the first through-hole of the one link and fixed in the second through-hole of the other link are brought into relative movement in rolling contact thereby permitting the bending of the chain, and wherein a locus of contact position between the first pin and the strip is defined by an involute of a circle and the plurality of first pins includes pins of two or more different widths in the chain longitudinal direction such that the first pins and the strips are combined to form two or more types of pairs which provide involutes of base circles having different radii,

wherein the plural chain friction transmission members include plural types of chain friction transmission members which have mutually different rigidities against force acting in the chain widthwise direction, and

wherein the first pin is a transmission pin also serving as the chain friction transmission member, and

wherein the plurality of links include plural types of links comprising:
a first type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and only pins of the same type having substantially the same rigidities; and
a second type of link possessing through-holes configured to receive strips and pins of any of the plurality of pin types having different rigidities. –

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS IRVIN whose telephone number is (571)270-3095. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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